

and homes without heat in the winter." And yet, 30 years after Senator Kennedy's death the poverty of indifference still afflicts our institutions.

Last week a small, incremental approach was suggested in a tax bill that passed our House of Representatives. It was a tax incentive-based approach that provided tax incentives for twenty defined renewal communities. While the family development accounts, the commercial revitalization credit and the work opportunity tax credits suggest a hopeful beginning, these tax incentives by themselves are far too incremental to make a difference.

Still, it is a beginning. Congress must be willing to begin the unbridling of the free enterprise system in our center cities, and provide businesses incentives to beat back the effects of poverty.

Waging and winning such a war is good for all Americans, save drug dealers and demagogues. It is good for our soul and good for our economy. Imagine moving through the next century with our center cities emerging as economic engines instead of economic drains. It is a possibility we must consider. Repeating the mistakes of the past 35 years is not an option.

We must seek a new strategy in our war against poverty.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

The scriptures exhort us to begin each day with joyful singing and with gladness of heart. The scriptures further proclaim that we should enter God's gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Yet, we know, O loving and gracious God, that for some people there is no singing a new song, nor is there thanksgiving or gladness. Remind each of us, O God, what we can do to alleviate the hurt of others or cause their pain to diminish. May the hungry find food, the lonely know friendship, and those who experience the ravages of war find peace and rest. And may Your blessing, O God, that surrounds us and gives us hope be with us and all Your people now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule 1, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4057. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4057) "An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. FORD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2511. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to pay employees of the Food Safety and Inspection Service working in establishments subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act for overtime and holiday work performed by the employees.

A TAX CUT, SOCIAL SECURITY COMPROMISE

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I was forced to choose between keeping my promise to provide additional tax relief to working families and my pledge that every penny of Social Security taxes should go only to Social Security.

The Democrats' demagoguery rings hollow. For 40 years they raided the trust fund. All of this year's \$80 billion surplus will go towards debt, not new programs. But there was a grain of truth to the arguments that they raised. Ending the marriage penalty and making Social Security solvent are not mutually exclusive. A compromise can be reached so that tax cuts

can be phased in after our obligations to Social Security have been met. This could begin as early as next March.

When Americans allowed Washington to take money from their paychecks to fund Social Security, they never told Washington to keep the change.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FORGOTTEN BASEBALL HEROES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to "Big Mac McGwire" and "Slamming Sammy Sosa." Their achievements and their character are in fact role models for all of America's youth.

Today I rise, however, to pay tribute to 2 sort of forgotten past baseball heroes. Josh Gibson of the old Negro leagues hit 85 home runs in the early 1930s. Thank God it was recognized and he was placed into the Hall of Fame. The other forgotten man is the kid from Fargo. He stood right next to Babe Ruth for 37 years. Two-time MVP, home run king, and a good person, Roger Maris.

I say to my colleagues, it is time for baseball to do the right thing like they did with Josh Gibson; it is time to put the kid from Fargo, Roger Maris, in the Hall of Fame. Sammy and Big Mac showed just what a tremendous achievement Roger Maris and Josh Gibson had, in fact, achieved.

CHINA'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the imprisoned religious believers in China.

Chinese officials imprisoned Pastor Xu Yongze for setting up a house church and for working with overseas organizations. Reports suggest that since his arrest on March 16, 1997, authorities have beaten and tortured Pastor Xu and prevented his family from seeing him.

Further, the government rearrested 65-year-old Bishop Su Zhimin for sending a letter to Chinese authorities protesting religious freedom violations. Bishop Su spent 20 years in prison for the crime of respecting the authority of the Vatican and refusing to join China's State-sponsored church, the Catholic Patriotic Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Chinese government to release Pastor Xu and Bishop Su, and begin to protect the Chinese people's fundamental right to religious liberty.